



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the War Production Board Records

NMAH.AC.0341

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1989

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	War Production Board Records
Date:	1943-1945
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0341
Creator:	United States. War Production Board. (Creator)
Extent:	2.5 Cubic feet (7 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Records of the War Production Board concerning watches (including clocks and timers) so that both the civilian population and the military would be supplied with adequate and reliable timepieces.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

This collection was donated to the NMAH's Division of Mechanics (now Division of Work and Industry) sometime prior to 1974, and was transferred to the Archives Center shortly after it opened in 1983.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Ageton, 1989

Preferred Citation

War Production Board Collection, 1943-1945, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The War Production Board (WPB) was established in the Office for Emergency Management by an Executive order of January 16, 1942, which transferred to it the functions of the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board and the Office of Production Management (both established in 1941).

The function of the WPB was to exercise general direction over the war procurement and production programs of all federal departments and agencies. The WPB was terminated November 3, 1945.

The Consumers Durable Goods Division of the War Production Board was concerned with the regulation, production, and allocation of timepieces during World War II.

Source

Guide to the National Archives and Record Services, General Service Administration, Washington: 1974, PP. 687 689).

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of records of the War Production Board concerning watches (including clocks and timers) so that both the civilian and the military would be supplied with adequate and reliable time mechanisms as well as timers for military purposes. The activities ranged from control over aspects of production to allocation of material used in manufacturing along with references to foreign importation of watches and a technical survey of clock and watch factories in Europe.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into five series.

Series 1: Watches by Type

Series 2: Correspondence: Manufacturers

Series 3: Reports for Watch Industry

Series 4: War Production Board Records/Reports

Series 5: War production Board Requirements

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Clocks and watches
World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

Correspondence -- 1940-1950
Reports -- 1940-1950
Statistics

Container Listing

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Box 1, Folder 3	New Haven Nurses Watches (Certificates) 1944
Box 1, Folder 4	BRAILLE WATCHES: Correspondence 1945.
Box 1, Folder 5	STOP WATCHES:1941 1945 Ads.
Box 1, Folder 6	TIMERS: Ads Correspondence 1943-1945.
Box 1, Folder 7	Timers, Waltham WPB 541 Records (Also Longines): Tables on Timers showing factors involved and similar table for Imported Timers (Longines Wittnauer Watch Co.), 1944 and 1945.
Box 1, Folder 8	Jeweled Timers:Reports on Production. Correspondence 1944.
Box 1, Folder 9	Rhineland. L.H. Correspondence February 1945
Box 1, Folder 10	MINERS WATCHES: Correspondence 1945.
Box 1, Folder 11	RAILROAD WATCHES: OFFICE OF DEFENSE TRANSPORTATION. Deliveries on railroad watches. Clock Manufacturers Assn. report on Trade Name by company. Correspondence.
Box 1, Folder 12	RAILROAD WATCHES: Reports Shipments by Elgin, Hamilton, and Waltham Correspondence 1945.
Box 1, Folder 13	Railroad Standard Watches: Correspondence 1944 1945.
Box 1, Folder 14	Reports Jeweled Railroad Watches: Correspondence with Elgin National Watch Company, June 17, 1942 November 4, 1944 on various aspects of production; and Correspondence with the Hamilton Watch Company, December 6, 1943 November 1, 1944. Other correspondence 1944 1945 (tables)
Box 1, Folder 15	Pawnbrokers: Correspondence circa 1945 re sale of railroad watches Loan and Pawnbroker companies
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	Schedules, 1945, In Dollars; Thousands of Units; and Comparison of Actual Shipments With Schedules First Quarter of 1945.
Box 1, Folder 17	NON JEWELLED WATCHES 1945: Table of Alarm Clocks and Non Jeweled Watches dated June 18, 1945, Showing Manufacture by Labor Area, Number of Alarms, Watches, Etc.; Report on Non Jeweled Industry showing list of major companies in the Jeweled and Non Jeweled watch industry but not dated. Correspondence 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 18	REPORTS NON JEWELLED WATCHES: Tables of Recap. on Non Jeweled Watches, January 1944, and R E C O N V E R S I O N (Jeweled and Non Jeweled Clocks and Watch Industry, April 11, 1945). A Comprehensive report by The United States Time Corporation on Non Jeweled watches dated January 25, 1944. Report by the Clock Manufacturers Association of America, Statement Showing
Box 1, Folder 19	MILITARY: Maritime Commission War Shipping Adm. Correspondence 1944.
Box 1, Folder 20	Air Corps. Army Air Forces watch requirements and production. Correspondence 1945
Box 1, Folder 21	Navy General. Alarm Clocks Correspondence 1944 -1945.
Box 1, Folder 22	Navy Lt. H.N. Bull 1943- 1945. Correspondence 1943 -1945.
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Box 2, Folder 3	ASSOCIATIONS REPORTS, etc.: Correspondence 1942 1944.
Box 2, Folder 4	ASSOCIATION, CLOCK MANUFACUTRERS: Reference to the organization. Correspondence 1945.
Box 2, Folder 5	DATA: Data ranges from information on August 14, 1942 of the clock industry; April 2, 1943 memorandum on "Watch Situation in America"; and April 5, 1945 listing of Jeweled and Non Jeweled watch
Box 2, Folder 6	EMPOLYMENT STATISTICS: 1936-1945 and correspondence on May 4, 1950 on Employment in U. S. Jeweled Watch Industry.
Box 2, Folder 7	GIBRALTER MANUFACTURING CO.: Correspondence.
Box 2, Folder 8	WILLIAN L. GILBERT CLOCK CORPORATION: Correspondence 1943-1944.

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Box 2, Folder 10	HAMMOND INSTRUMENT COMPANY: Correspondence 1943-1945.
Box 2, Folder 11	INGRAHAM COMPANY (Ink Note: Now McGraw Edison Co. as of 12/ 1 /67): Correspondence: 5/24/72 Note: The Ingraham Co. now Ingraham Industries, Div. of McGraw Edison Co., Bristol, Conn.;added note that McGraw Edison Co., Launenburg Division now Time
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Box 3, Folder 1	A.R. and J.E. MEYLAN: Correspondence 1945 and ads.
Box 3, Folder 2	OLD COLONY CLOCK COMPANY: Correspondence 1945.
Box 3, Folder 3	SESSOINS CLOCK COMPANY: Correspondence 1944- 1945
Box 3, Folder 4	SETH THOMAS (Central Time): Correspondence 1944-1945.
Box 3, Folder 5	UNITED METAL GOODS MFG. CO., Inc.: Correspondence 1944-1945.
Box 3, Folder 6	WATCH MOTOR MAINSPRING COMPANY: Correspondence 1943-1944.
Box 3, Folder 7	WESTCLOX: (General Time Instruments Corp.) Production, metal requirements, and personnel employed. Publicaion: Excerpts from the Proceedings of the War Conference of The National Wholesale Jewelers' Association, June 14 and 15 1943. Correspondence 1943-1945.
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Box 4, Folder 12	STATE DEPARTMENT: Correspondence about 100 alarm clocks for use by Foreign Service Personnel 1945.
Box 4, Folder 13	STIRLING, Capt., AUS: Program on Alarm Clocks correspondence 1945.
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Box 6, Folder 3	REQUIREMENTS: Material Required and codes used for steel, copper, brass, and aluminum.
Box 6, Folder 4	REQUIREMENTS: Ordnance Military Hack Wrist Watches (1945-1946)
Box 6, Folder 5	REQUIREMENTS: Clocks and Watches. Commercial Clocks coded types? Not clear as to what summaries are. Could be coded as well.
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Box 6, Folder 12	Reports Watch Production Schedules Jeweled Watch Industry: Tables of Government Orders and Delivery Schedules Dec. 1943 1944; Watch Production Schedule 1944; various watch production schedules including the year 1945.
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Box 7, Folder 8 SETH THOMAS (Central Time): Correspondence 1944 -1945.

Box 7, Folder 9 WATCH MOTOR MAINSPRING COMPANY: Correspondence 1943-1944.